

1975

# Homage to My Hair

Lucille Clifton

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## Homage to My Hair / Lucille Clifton

WHEN I FEEL HER JUMP UP AND DANCE  
I HEAR THE MUSIC, MY GOD,  
I'M TALKING ABOUT MY NAPPY HAIR!  
SHE IS A CHALLENGE TO YOUR HAND  
BLACK MAN, SHE IS AS TASTY ON YOUR TONGUE  
AS GOOD GREENS, BLACK MAN,  
SHE CAN TOUCH YOUR MIND WITH HER  
ELECTRIC FINGERS AND THE  
GRAYER SHE DO GET, MY GOD,  
THE BLACKER SHE DO BE!

## This Is C. T. R. Reed / Mari Evans (A Black Man of the Old School)

Bending waist deep  
blackfingered smiling sure  
good mornin madum this  
is C. T. R. Reed

Fashioning Kilimanjaro from his  
fivefootnine he  
stood  
    for something  
he handled  
    responsibility  
he dealt  
    with laboring  
he loved  
    his image knew who  
he was  
    tendertough  
    tinder/tuff  
    wrysweet  
    constant  
good mornin madum this  
is  
C. T. R. Reed